

TROY AREA LABOR COUNCIL

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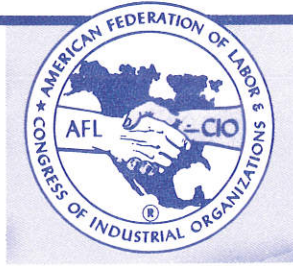
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Members of Troy City Council,

I write to express the Troy Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO's support for the Resolution Affirming the City of Troy as a Sanctuary City. As you may recall, we unanimously passed a resolution urging Troy and other municipalities in Rensselaer County to stand with and protect our immigrant neighbors. Similarly, the Capital District Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, also unanimously approved its own resolution. Local organized labor stands with immigrants, many of whom are our coworkers and our neighbors.

Troy does not exist outside the contours of this fight. The southern border and Border Patrol agents firing tear gas at migrants seeking political asylum from US-backed authoritarian regimes may be thousands of miles from our small city, but Rensselaer County Sheriff Patrick Russo signed a 287(g) agreement with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to help them enact their anti-immigrant agenda right here in our backyards. Dalila Yeend, a Troy resident, was arrested by a Rensselaer County sheriff's deputy and held while the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department worked aggressively to hand her over to ICE agents. They sent her to an ICE detention facility for months while her family, including her son and daughter, struggled to make ends meet and worried constantly that she would be deported. It was the incredible community here in Troy, immigrants and citizens alike, who supported her, emotionally and financially.

With this resolution, affirming Troy as a Sanctuary City and saying loudly that "Immigrants Are Welcome Here!" By passing this resolution, Troy would join cities like Kingston, Hudson, and Albany on the right side of history, making a small but important step to protect immigrants.

We urge you to pass this resolution.

Sincerely,

Herb Hennings
on behalf of the Troy Area Labor Council